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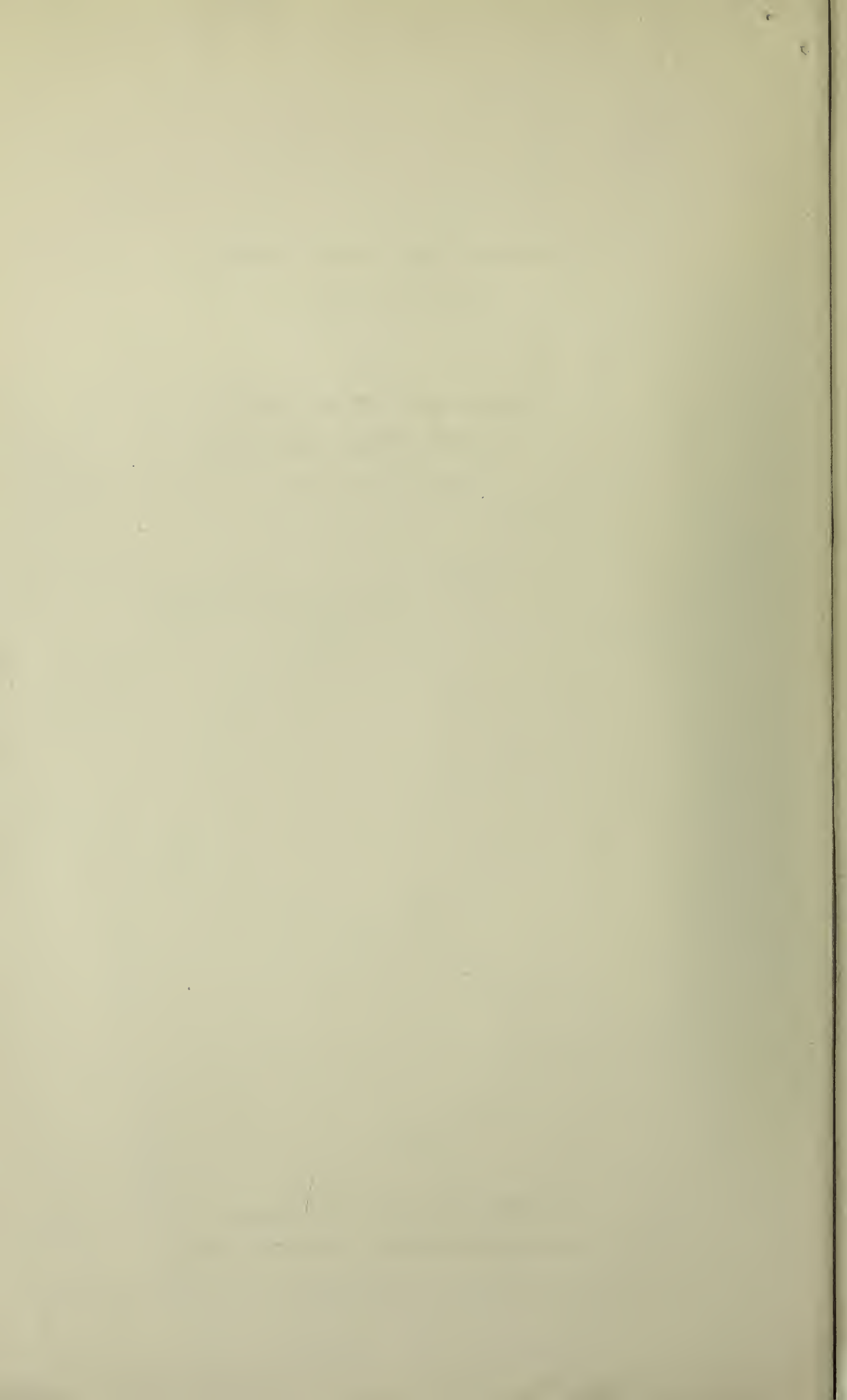
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DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH
OF THE DISTRICT, 1953.



M. C. FELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
R. F. FRY, M.I.San.E., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.



CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Ven. Archdeacon T. Bowstead Wilson, M.A., J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

W. E. Richardson, Esq., J.P.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Chairman of the Council

Vice-Chairman: The Vice-Chairman of the Council

Messrs. C.S. Anton, E. Brighton, C. D. Cooper, R. K. George,
S. T. Gittins, Peter Harris, L. R. Hyde, R. E. Jones, T. S. Mapson,
S. E. Powick and J. Williamson.

Co-opted members for advice on housing and nominated by the Women's
Institute : Mrs. D. L. Parker and Mrs. B. L. Birch.

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

M. C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., Medical Officer of Health.

D. G. Carter, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Deputy Engineer
and Surveyor.

J. D. Hopgood, Cert. S.I.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector and
Technical Assistant.

R. F. Fry, M.I.San.E., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A., Engineer and
Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES,
DROITWICH.

April, 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

We regret that this Report, which under normal circumstances would have been in your hands towards the end of 1954, is a few months late but the work, especially in the provision of the basic service of housing, water supply and sewerage has been very heavy indeed and very little time is available for report writing. It is however, with the provision of these and other services that the Council and its officers are primarily concerned and writing the records, important though it is, should surely be secondary to the main function.

Last year we congratulated the Council on the energetic way it was performing its statutory duties and we expressed the hope, that, within reasonable financial limits, the policy of improvement of housing standards, extension of mains water and, for the compact communities, sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, would continue. The year under review was again a year of practical progress in these matters and plans were made for yet more improvement.

As regards housing, the demand for new accommodation for those without a house appears to be slackening, but a great deal of work lies ahead to improve sub-standard houses and to replace those houses beyond repair. Areas which for many years have been a constant source of anxiety, both to the people living there and to the Council, areas which quickly felt the effect of drought and where the shallow wells were often contaminated, have now been provided with a piped water supply. The one regrettable aspect of this is that property owners have not connected to the supply in the numbers which were anticipated, but no doubt when drought conditions occur there will be a rush to connect to the mains. By the year end many of the "black spot" areas had either been provided with a supply or plans had been made to deal with them.

Sewerage has advanced more slowly, but of the four areas in great need the Hartlebury scheme had been completed and the Ombersley scheme well in hand. The outstanding problems in this connection are Crowle and Wychbold.

Following normal practice the Report is divided into the following sections :-

- A. Statistics and social conditions of the area.
- B. General provision of health services for the area.
- C. Sanitary circumstances of the area.
- D. Housing.
- E. Inspection and supervision of food.
- F. Prevalence of and control over infectious disease.

Generally the figures quoted are for the calendar year but financial figures relate to the period 1st April - 31st March.

Once again we offer our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Council whose help and advice is greatly appreciated and so willingly given and to members of the Council generally. We would also like to gratefully acknowledge the help of the other chief officers of the Council and of the members of the staff.

We are, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

M. C. FELL and R. F. FRY.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,433
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to												
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
Rateable Value (Dec. 31st, 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£75,904
Sum presented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£314
Registrar General's estimate of resident population												
(mid 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,020

VITAL STATISTICS

							Males	Females	Total
Live Births.									
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	86	84	170
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Birth rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
							Males	Females	Total
Still Births.									
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
							Males	Females	Total
Deaths.									
From all causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	63	129
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.9
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.4
							Males	Females	Total
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.									
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50.2
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the									
same period	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.8

CAUSES OF DEATH

									Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases				...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Vascular Lesions of nervous system				...	...	...	...	...	9	13
Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				...	...	...	...	...	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. Ambulance stations which serve the Droitwich Rural District are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. The list below shows the parishes covered by each ambulance station for non-emergency cases. In all cases of emergency the ambulance should be summoned in the usual way - that is, by asking the Telephone operator for "Ambulance" or by dialling "999."

Bromsgrove Ambulance Station

Upton Warren

Northern part of Parish of Dodderhill

Kidderminster Ambulance Station

Hartlebury

Redditch Ambulance Station

Stock & Bradley

Worcester Ambulance Station

Elmley Lovett
Elmbridge
Hampton Lovett
Doverdale
North Claines
Crowle
Hadzor

Hanbury
Himbleton
Hindlip
Huddington
Martin Hussingtree
Oddingley
Ombersley

Salwarpe
Tibberton
Upton Warren
Warndon
Westwood

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolations hospitals. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

(b) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals situated in Worcester, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The isolation hospital which serves the area is situated at Newtown, Worcester.

Maternity hospitals which serve the district are situated at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting

This service is provided by the County Council, and in most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse-Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. The following nurses are working the Rural District :-

Nurse Wilson, Nurse's House, Fernhill Heath.	Telephone No : Fernhill Heath 304.
Nurse Powell, Shaw Lane, Stoke Works.	Telephone No : Bromsgrove 2659.
Nurse Adler, Rose Cottage, Cutnall Green.	Telephone No : Cutnall Green 233.
Nurse Tingey, Mount Hill Cottage, Hanbury.	Telephone No : Hanbury 209.
Nurse Greenhall, 7, Council House, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle.	Telephone No : Upton Snodsbury 259

Nurse Powell, 14, Apple Tree Walk, Ombersley. Telephone No. : Ombersley 341.
Nurse Dudley, 27, Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury.
Telephone No. : Hartlebury 200.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the following clinics :-

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open on 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month
at 2 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove. Open every Monday at 10.0 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury. Open on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Hanbury. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle. Open on 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Cutnall Green. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath. Open on 2nd Friday in the month at 2.0 p.m.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor or at any of the County Council's Clinics.

During 1953 the following inoculations were done :-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	153
---	--------	-----

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the	299
year	212

VACCINATION

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	150
---	--------	-----

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	...	5
--	-----	---

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND
AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

These sections place on district medical officers of health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the medical officer of health by the welfare officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

No cases were dealt with under these sections during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Piped Supplies

So far as water supply is concerned Droitwich Rural District is divided so that 30,278 acres of the 50,443 fall within the limits of the statutory area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company leaving 20,165 acres to be served by the Droitwich Rural District Council.

The Statutory Area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company

Until recently the only supplies given by the Company were branches from the trunk main supplying the town of Droitwich at Upton Warren and Wychbold. A comprehensive scheme covering the whole of the Company's area within the Rural District and giving bulk supplies at certain points on the boundary has been drawn up but abandoned by mutual consent because the cost of the scheme, which involved substantial additional capital headworks, was considered to be too heavy a commitment to carry out in one operation. Consequently it was decided to proceed with individual extensions within the Company's statutory area of supply, integrating these into the general plan. One long extension was undertaken in 1952 in the Upton Warren area to bring water to the parish of Elmbridge and in 1953 this was extended to the boundary of the Rural District, incidentally affording a supply to the Kidderminster Rural District Council for housing purposes. This scheme has brought water to an area which has been an exceedingly difficult one in the past, since the wells there were often dried up in drought periods and what water was available was excessively hard. Another scheme within the Company's statutory area was also carried out in 1952 at the other side of the district in the parish of Stock and Bradley, also a very difficult area for underground supplies. A fourth scheme within the Company's area to bring water to the village of Hanbury was commenced during the year. So far as this part of the Rural District is concerned therefore, 1952 & 3 saw the first fruits of schemes which had been prepared and planned over the last six years. During the year under review plans were made for the next series of integration into the general plan involving extensions to Earls Common, Hampton Lovett, Hadzor and Salwarpe, the last two depending upon an agreement with Droitwich Borough Council. The schemes so far carried out have been done with the help of substantial grants from the Ministry of Agriculture and it is hoped that either this source of assistance or alternatively assistance under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act will be forthcoming to continue the programme in the other villages in this area.

The Council's Area of Supply

The Crowle Supply

This supply was officially opened on 19th January, 1952. It is designed to serve properties situated at levels which vary between 279 and 156 feet above Ordnance Datum, the reservoir being sited at 281.78 feet ground level and the top water level at 302 feet above Ordnance Datum. The scheme is based on a consumption of 15,000 gallons per day and the borehole, 16 inches diameter 105 feet deep, was tested at a rate of 36,000 gallons per 24 hours over a continuous period of 336 hours. A small pumphouse over the borehole houses twin submersible pumps each capable of lifting 4,000 gallons per hour through a rising main 1,136 yards from a pumping level of 51.32 feet A.O.D. to the reservoir water level at 302 A.O.D., together with automatic control gear of the time pressure switch type. The whole scheme is so designed as to be integrated into a larger plan at a later date. Since blue lias clay predominates in the area special precautions have been taken in connection with the cast iron valves and fittings and asbestos cement pipe has been used throughout for the mains. A direct labour force was established to make connections to this supply and in order to encourage people to connect, the Council offered free connections to the boundary of properties in return for a guarantee that a water supply would be taken within three months of the connections being made and that a water rate would be levied on the property at the expiration of the period.

Direct Labour Organisation

The Council maintains a direct labour organisation for mains extensions and maintenance, the average manual staff employed during the year being sixteen. The following is a summary of the Council's capital expenditure on water schemes to the 31st March, 1954 :-

<u>WATER SUPPLY</u>			<u>Capital Expenditure</u> <u>to 31.3.54.</u>
			£.
Pre War	-	Fernhill Heath.	12641
Post War	-	Fernhill Heath and Martin Hussingtree.	5074
		Ombersley	10630
		Hartlebury	6356
		Crowle	11166
			<hr/> £45867. <hr/>

31/3/54 GUARANTEE'S - EAST WORCS. WATERWORKS CO.

		<u>Capital Cost</u>
		£.
	Risingbridge Farm	8097
	Cooksey Lodge Farm	1058
	Purshall Green	5894
	Stock & Bradley	5321
	Skirgens Farm & Vernon Arms	2338
		<hr/> £22708 <hr/>

The Fernhill Heath Supply

This is a bulk supply taken from the City of Worcester at four bulk supply points.

Droitwich Road - The supply is boosted from a station situated at 106 feet above Ordnance Datum to serve properties in the Fernhill Heath Village area which are at levels varying between 180 and 114 feet A.O.D. This bulk supply point serves about 80 per cent of the properties in the Parish which receive mains water.

Ombersley Road and Northwick Road - Water is taken direct as an extension of the City of Worcester mains to serve development in the area. The Northwick Road supply extends to Bevere Green. The Ombersley Road section gives frequent trouble since pressure available in the houses served is often inadequate and in order to improve this the Northwick Road and Ombersley Road supplies were joined by an interlinking main in Green Lane in 1952. This improved the position but not sufficiently, and in view of the large number of new houses within the City which are fed from the Supplying main, and also to allow the Green Lane area to be developed, some form of boosting in the near future seems inevitable.

St. Martin County - The fourth bulk supply point serves a small number of properties in this area. The bulk of these were houses owned by the City Council and that part of the area has now been transferred to the City.

The Ombersley Supply - This supply has proved to be a most successful and economical one. It was originally laid down to serve the Council's housing development but has now been extended to serve Ombersley village. The supply consists of a 12-inch diameter bore into the keuper sandstone 176 feet deep. Duplicate submersible pumps are capable of raising water to the overhead pressed steel reservoir at a rate of 4,000 gallons per hour and pumping tests have indicated that the borehole yield is considerably higher than this.

Kidderminster Bulk Supply

This supply which covered the Summerfield area of the Parish of Hartlebury was extended during the year to the Torton area and also to the Stanklyn Lane area where a bulk supply is now given to the Kidderminster Rural District Council. All the mains are of 3 inches diameter (the same as at the boundary with Kidderminster Borough). During the year negotiations were concluded with Stourport Urban District Council for a bulk supply for the major part of the Hartlebury Parish since it is now a matter of urgency that the Hartlebury Village Area which is rapidly developing should have a proper water supply. The scheme for distribution mains has been approved in principle by the Ministry and these will ultimately interlink the Kidderminster and Stourport supplies.

Other Council Supplies

In addition to the sources mentioned above the Council has borehole supplies at Cutnall Green, Hanbury, and Tibberton, which were laid down for housing purposes. In the case of Tibberton the Council has decided to develop the supply and extend it to the village, since many of the shallow wells upon which the village relies for water appear to be polluted.

Comprehensive Scheme for South-East Parishes

Towards the end of the year the Council's consulting engineer submitted proposals for a supply of water from Worcester City to be distributed through the parishes in the south-east area of the rural district. The scheme has been approved by the County Council and has been submitted to the Ministry.

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES

The remainder of the Rural District other than the areas already mentioned and still containing the greater proportion of properties, derives water supply mainly from shallow wells. In the western half of the area these are dug into the keuper sandstone and in the eastern half they are dug in the marl which overlays the keuper sandstone in increasing thickness in an easterly direction from the line of the "Doverdale Fault." In many cases the supply from these wells is unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity, and it is important that the Council continues to pursue its policy of extending piped supplies through the district. This is especially so in the area of Earls Common, where it is often necessary to cart water to the area.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

All the sources of public supply are examined bacteriologically and chemically at frequent intervals and all samples were reported as satisfactory.

The following samples were taken from private supplies :-

Address	Source of Supply	Result
Pigeon Cote, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
Cottage, near Charlton Saw Mills	Well	Unfit
Hanbury Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
The Council's supplies at Cutnall Green, Ombersley and Fernhill Heath were sampled and found to be satisfactory.		
Pigeon Cote, Oddingley	Well	Fit
Council Houses, Oldfield Lane, Ombersley	Borehole	Fit
Council Houses, Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury	Sadler's Supply	Fit
Council Houses, Crowle	Village Supply	Fit
Council Houses, Tibberton	Borehole	Fit
Council Houses, Hanbury (East Worcs. Waterworks)	Borehole	Fit
Rashwood Court, Nr. Droitwich	Shallow Well	Fit
Home Farm, Hadzor	Spring	Fit
The Yardings, Oldfield Lane, Ombersley	Well	Fit
Barn Hall Farm, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
Council Estate, Chequers Lane, Wychbold (East Worcs. Waterworks Co.)	Mains	Fit
Powers Lane, Ombersley	Well	Fit
Church House, Elmbridge	Well	Fit

Address	Source of Supply	Result
Westwood Estate, Droitwich	Spring	Fit
Ombersley Memorial Hall	Well	Fit
School House, Ombersley	Well	Fit
Council Houses, Tibberton	Borehole	Fit
Council Houses, Fernhill Heath	Piped Supply	Fit
Priest Cottage, Huddington	Well	Unfit
Elmbridge Green House	Well	Unfit
Court Farm, Huddington	Well	Unfit
Pigeon House Farm, Bradley Green	Well	Fit
Rectory Farm, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Rectory Farm, Tibberton	Cistern	Unfit
Rectory Farm, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
Bryans Green Lane, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
Rose Cottage, Bradley Green	Well	Unfit
Himbleton School	Well	Unfit
Rose Cottage, Saleway	Well	Unfit
The Grove, Hartlebury	Well	Unfit
Elmbridge Green House	Well	Unfit
Meadow View, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Catherine Cottages, Torton	Well	Unfit
The Broad, Hampton Lovett	Well	Unfit
Fern Cottages, Tibberton	Well	Unfit

The only measures that can be taken in the unfit cases is to advise occupiers to boil drinking water before use and in the meantime try to trace the sources of pollution and where these are found steps can be taken to prevent the polluting agent reaching the supply. In cases where the pollution cannot be traced advice on chlorination of the supply is given. The results, once again, underline the need for extension of mains water through the district.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As in the case of the extension of mains water supply, 1953 saw some positive progress of plans which were formulated in the early post-war period, although there was some disappointment also. In 1946 the Council resolved to lay down comprehensive sewerage schemes at Hartlebury, Ombersley, Wychbold and Crowle and instructed their consulting engineer to prepare plans for these schemes.

The Hartlebury Scheme

The first of these schemes came to fruition in 1952 when the Hartlebury scheme came into operation, so that the Council now has two parish sewerage schemes in the district, namely North Claines and Hartlebury. The original Hartlebury scheme provided for the main village area together with Torton, Charlton and the Station Road area, but these last three sections were lopped off the scheme in the process of government approval and a portion of the village area which involved the laying of a trunk sewer along the trunk road A.449 met a similar fate. However, the most heavily populated part of the Hartlebury Parish now has a modern comprehensive sewerage system and a number of inefficient and overloaded small disposal systems have been superceded. Sewage from this area runs by gravity to a central pumping station where storm water is spilled through tanks to a tributary of the Severn. The crude sewage is pumped through a rising main into the pumping main of the Stourport U.D.C. and from there to the Kidderminster Joint Works on the Stourport Road. A second small pumping station deals with the flow from part of the Council's housing site and St. Gilbert's Approved School. At the year end 100 properties were connected and the work was proceeding.

The Ombersley Scheme

A public enquiry into the Ombersley Scheme was held on 30th January, 1952. In its chequered preparation stage the scheme had been completely altered so that whereas in the first place a disposal works was proposed in the southern drainage area the one presented at the public enquiry proposed the works in the northern drainage area. The lack of adequate sewage disposal facilities has prevented further building in the Parish for some years, although the demand for houses is still substantial, and it was shown at the enquiry that young people were leaving the village to seek accommodation elsewhere. The scheme, with some modifications, received Ministry approval in April, 1952 and it is hoped to start work on the scheme in 1954.

The Crowle Scheme

This unfortunate scheme altered on at least three occasions, failed Ministry approval following an informal enquiry on 30th January, 1952. From the old records of the Council and its predecessor, the Board of Guardians, a sewerage scheme for this village was first formulated before the beginning of this century and this and a number of further attempts to provide adequate sewerage facilities for the village failed for various reasons. One can understand this during the period of parochial sewerage rates since the topography is difficult and any scheme would involve pumping and consequently be expensive when compared with the rateable value of the Parish. Anyone who doubts the necessity of a sewerage scheme for the village area should see the conditions of the ditches there which are no more than open sewers, and very little can be done to improve them as the geology of the district, with blue lias clay predominating, does not permit efficient filtration from small domestic sewage disposal plants. The inauguration of a piped water supply, whilst allaying the fear of pollution of drinking water, has increased the flow of sewage, and a comprehensive sewerage scheme should not be long delayed. It is a great disappointment that completion of the final proposals for the comprehensive scheme coincided with a period of reduced capital expenditure but it is hoped that approval will be given as soon as possible.

The Wychbold or Dodderhill Scheme

Another scheme which has been on the drawing board since the early post-war years received County Council approval during 1952 and protracted negotiations for the necessary land were completed, so that the scheme could be presented for loan sanction. It had been hoped that the scheme would be undertaken in time to receive sewage from the large site purchased by the Council in 1947 for housing development, but since the scheme had not been started by the middle of 1952 the Council decided they could no longer wait and arranged to proceed with house development and lay down a temporary sewage plant to deal with those houses which would be completed before the comprehensive sewerage scheme was ready. At the year end the comprehensive scheme had not been approved and housing development had to be halted. The Severn Rivers Board are most anxious to see this scheme started.

The Fernhill Heath Works

This plant, which receives sewage from the greater part of the North Claines Parish, was laid down in 1938 and was operated successfully during the year. The sewage after passing through sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks is discharged to a tributary of the Salwarpe, and the effluent throughout the year was satisfactory. On 6th August, 1952 a total of 2 inches of rain fell within 24 hours and the flow into the works rose very considerably, which proves that a fair amount of surface water is being received into the sewers. This should not be so and every effort is made by the Department to prevent the connection of surface water drains to the sewers wherever possible since the operation costs are increased and even more important the capacity of the works is taken up by the needless treatment of rain water. Of course the admission of a quantity of rainwater from the back roofs of properties is inevitable without very expensive reorganisation of house drainage systems, but front roofs and paved areas should not be connected to the foul sewer, otherwise the Council's sewage disposal costs are bound to increase unnecessarily.

Cesspool Emptying Service

This service inaugurated in 1951 was gradually extended during the year, and from letters received it is quite obvious that the ratepayers appreciate the facilities offered. A standard charge of £1 per visit is made and a number of contracts have been entered into with owners of business premises on a cost basis. The one machine, a Karrier of 750 gallons capacity, fitted with nightsoil attachment, gave little trouble from the maintenance point of view.

In addition to the service to ratepayers the machine is used on the small sewage disposal plants on the Council's housing estates and a nightsoil collection is made in the Parish of North Claines, from those properties not connected to the sewerage scheme laid down as a charge on the parochial rate in 1938. Some of these properties could be connected to the sewer and the time has now arrived when a scheme for connecting them should be undertaken.

The cost of the Cesspool Emptying Service										1952/3	1953/4
										£	£
Wages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	245	233
Vehicle	JUY 248	-	Licence and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	47
			Petrol, Oil, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	153	164
			Repairs and maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	29
			Travelling	...	...	...	...	...	...		26
										<u>227</u>	
EXPENDITURE										472	499
INCOME - Charges										<u>190</u>	<u>318</u>
NET EXPENDITURE										<u>£282</u>	<u>£181</u>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Capital Expenditure
to 31.3.54.

			£
Pre War Scheme	-	Fernhill Heath	19,627
Post War Schemes	-	Hartlebury	29,093
		Ombersley	7,621
		Crowle	505
			<u>£54,845.</u>

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

This service covers the whole district, a weekly collection being given in the village areas and three-weekly collection in other parts. Complaints about the service are now very few indeed, in fact less than half a dozen have been received over the past twelve months, and experience shows that this is a good indication that an efficient service is being given. The Council can be justifiably proud of the refuse collection service, which affects every ratepayer in the district and which has been maintained very closely to schedule in spite of adverse weather conditions during the year.

The details of the service are as follows :-

Number of houses for refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
" " " having bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,402
" " " " ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	438
" " " " weekly collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,098
" " " " three-weekly collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,742

The number of loads collected during the year was 1,517, each of approximately 4 tons, so that the total weight of refuse collected amounted to 6,068 tons.

Bin Sales

Since it is often very difficult for people in country districts to get a single bin delivered, the Council operates a bin purchase scheme. Bins ordered are delivered by the refuse collection vehicles and the scheme helps with the abolition of ashpits, which are expensive to empty.

Refuse Disposal

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central tip. Screened clinker, obtained from an electricity generating station, is used as a cover to the refuse and has proved to be very suitable for the purpose. Since the cost of the clinker is very low (about 1½d. per ton, plus the cost of transport in the Council's own vehicle), refuse is disposed of in a hygienic manner for a minimum cost. The tip is kept under constant observation for rat and other infestation, the normal practice being to treat the tip for rats at quarterly intervals.

Salvage

The boom conditions for waste paper broke during 1952 and within twelve months the price dropped from £25. 15s. Od. to £7. 10s. Od. per ton. At this price a special waste paper collection is not profitable, but since the paper is collected in this district at the same time as the refuse, a collection has been continued and in this way a proportion of the cost of the refuse collection service is borne by the salvage sales.

Costs

Refuse Collection and Disposal	1952/3	1953/4
	£	£
Wages	3,301	3,878
Travelling	26	16
Clothing and toilet requisites	39	45
Implements and tools	22	6
Vehicles : EWY 173	85	9
JUY 994	233	477
JUY 995	272	463
KWP 390	378	526
General purpose vehicle (proportion)	35	6
Depot expenses	179	25
Maintenance of tips	100	60
Insurance	2	2
Excess expenditure - purchase of KWP 390	93	-
Trade refuse charges	10	10
Profit from salvage	68	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,765	4,765
	78	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cost of service	£4,687.	£4,744.

SECTION D

HOUSING

New Housing

The housing policy of the Council during the year reflected the Government's policy both as regards the size of house and increased number under construction and completed. 44 houses were completed during the year.

The Council's policy adopted during the previous year of varying the accommodation offered was continued and greater prominence was given to the erection of two-bedroomed houses and flats, the latter having proved to be both economical and satisfactory to the tenants. By the year end, terraced houses and three-storey flats were incorporated into the housing programme.

CAPITAL ASSETS - HOUSING - 31st MARCH, 1954

Units provided :-

Before 8th May, 1945	106
Post-War	237
	<hr/>
	343
Deduct units sold 1953-54	4
	<hr/>
Number of units owned by Council 31/3/54.	339

Expenditure to 31.3.54.

£.	s.	d.
44,653	5	9
470,674	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
515,327	7	2d.
3,210	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
£512,117	7	2d.

Housing Sites

Progress in the acquisition of sites has been far from satisfactory especially in the case of Himbleton, Ombersley and Crowle, where negotiations have been going on for well over fifteen months without any settlement. Sites are also in the process of being acquired at Sale Green, Salwarpe, Upton Warren and Fernhill Heath.

In an effort to encourage private development, the Council earmarked plots on their sites at Wychbold and Hartlebury for sale to persons in need of housing accommodation and a number of applications for these plots have been received. The need for new houses in the rural district is still very great indeed. The principal demand is in the parishes of Hartlebury, Ombersley and North Claines. Since the survey undertaken in 1937, no figures are available to show the extent of overcrowding in the district, and this survey of course gives no guide at all to the present position, but judging from the applications for council houses, one can only assume that a fairly heavy degree of overcrowding does exist in the district. Quite apart from the overcrowding, no concerted attempt has been possible to replace houses which were shown by the housing survey in 1946/7 to be so unfit as to be so unfit as to be so incapable of repair. There were 340 of these houses, representing 10.8 per cent of the total houses then in the rural district. In addition to these, the survey showed that 589 houses, or 18.8 per cent of the houses in the district, were in need of structural repair which to a very large extent they have not received, due principally to the lack of financial incentive to landlords whose rent income is fixed although repair expenditure has risen very considerably.

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants

Although the Council has done everything possible to encourage the applications for improvement grants, little use of the scheme has been made by landlords, and only 6 dwellings were brought up to modern standards with the aid of grants during the year. Most of the work involved provision of hot water supplies, proper drainage and plumbing and the total work grant aided amounted to £3,915 of which £1,630 was paid in grants.

It was encouraging to note that more enquiries were being made about the scheme towards the end of the year.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

1.	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	123
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	212
2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3.		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
4.		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	92
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	
		Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	76
3.		Action under statutory powers during the year	
(a)		PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :-	
1.		Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-		
(a) by owners	... ..	6
(b) by local authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	10
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-		
(a) by owners	... ..	10
(b) by local authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil
(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :-		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	1
(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :-		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding		
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	No detailed figures available.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..
(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..
(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	... ..

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

The following table shows the work carried out in factories in the Rural District during the year.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	1	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	40	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	31	35	-	-
Total ...		72	87	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number in cases in which prosecution instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	H.M. Inspector (5)	H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)						
(a) Insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	60	2	2	-	2	-

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

General

Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out during the year and a number of improvements effected as a result of informal action. The Council has made byelaws under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for "securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air" and a copy of the byelaws, has been sent to every food shop and trader in the district.

Meat

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the district in use at the present time and meat consumed in the area is drawn from abattoirs at Worcester and Kidderminster, where systematic post-mortem inspections are carried out by the staffs of those local authorities. Nevertheless occasional spot inspections of meat in the butchers' shops were made and also inspections were made on request by the butchers, and in this way, as is shown in the list below, 96 lbs of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Three members of the staff are qualified meat and food inspectors.

Milk

Since the re-arrangement of duties between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, supervision of milk production is no longer the Council's responsibility although the supervision of milk distribution is still retained by local authorities. Under this heading dairies are inspected and samples submitted for analysis. There are four pasteurising plants situated in the area from which regular routine samples are taken and it says a great deal for the care and efficiency of the operators that all samples taken during the year satisfied the prescribed tests.

Ice Cream

There are no producers of ice cream in the district, but quite a number of retailers who have to be registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The conditions of registration are laid down in Section 13 of that Act and in operating it a number of improvements to premises have been made. One of the conditions of Section 13 is that "a sufficient supply of ... clean water, both hot and cold" shall be provided and in a few cases interested parties have held that we have been too strict in this matter in view of the difficulties sometimes encountered in providing hot and cold water in a rural area. We do however consider this an essential precaution to insist upon, especially since the sale of ice cream in the district is invariably carried out in conjunction with the sale of other commodities.

Condemnation of Unfit Food

The following is a list of the foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :-

Raisins	...	...	30 lbs.
Currants	...	...	100 lbs.
Meat	...	...	96 lbs.

INFESTATION OF PREMISES

Rodent Control

The Council employs a full-time rat catcher who is responsible for inspection of all properties in the district and who deals with infestations in non-agricultural properties. He also regularly inspects and treats the Council's own property and special attention is paid to refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

The work undertaken on rodent control is shown in the following table :-

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	12	4195	353	209	4766
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose. (Notes 1, 2 and 3).	a)				
	-	32	6	3	41
	b)				
	12	800	155	46	1013
III. Number of properties inspected (See Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 and 3).	c)				
	12	79	22	7	120
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 and 3).	Major 1	-	2	4	7
	Minor 3	223	20	18	264
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (notes 1, 2 and 3).	4	15	0	10	29
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment			N I L		
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)			N I L		
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4			N I L		
VIII. Legal Proceedings (see overleaf).			N I L		
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	2				

Pest Control

The duties falling upon the Council due to verminous premises are, we are pleased to say, very light, but a small number of insect infestations have been dealt with by the use of D.D.T. and other chemical agents.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the occurrence of infectious disease in parishes :-

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Crowle	-	18	9	-	-	-
Dodderhill	1	1	1	-	-	-
Doverdale	-	2	-	-	-	-
Elmley Lovett	1	13	1	-	-	-
Elmbridge	-	4	-	-	-	-
Hadzor	-	1	-	-	-	-
Harbury	1	2	1	-	-	-
Hartlebury	1	57	8	-	1	-
Himbleton	1	2	-	-	-	-
Hindlip	2	3	1	-	-	-
Martin Hussingtree	-	3	-	-	-	-
North Claines	9	57	14	4	-	1
Ombersley	2	90	22	-	1	-
Oddingley	-	-	1	-	-	-
Salwarpe	-	1	-	-	-	-
Stock & Bradley	-	3	-	-	-	-
Tibberton	-	3	-	-	-	-
Upton Warren	-	6	-	-	-	-
Warndon	-	2	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	18	268	58	5	2	1

THE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1953 IS SHOWN
IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE

	Under One Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total cases notified	Cases admitted	Total deaths
1. Scarlet Fever		-	-	1	2	9	3	1	1	1	-	-	18	-	-
2. Measles	4	14	30	30	31	142	10	2	2	1	2	-	268	-	-
3. Whooping Cough	2	1	5	6	5	37	11	1	-	-	-	-	58	-	-
4. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
5. Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	5	-	-
6. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	8	15	35	37	38	188	14	4	5	2	5	1	352	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and deaths notified during 1953 are shown in the following table :-

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Respiratory Male Female		Non-respiratory Male Female		Respiratory Male Female		Non-respiratory Male Female	
8	8	-	1	2	1	-	-
Cases remaining on the Register at the end of December, 1952 ..				Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
				Male	Female	Male	Female
				37	28	8	4
Cases remaining on the Register at the end of December, 1953 ..				40	29	8	5

